

about one o'clock P. M., when, as I was sitting on some drift wood where the tide was coming in, I heard just over me *hink, hink, hink*. I had never heard this note before but I remembered Audubon's description, and truly there was the Red-breasted Nuthatch, which I had looked for in vain for twelve years, directly over me. There were two of them. The male I secured, but the female, which I badly wounded, I could not find. This species has never been taken in the maritime districts before, but has been recorded from Chester County, and my friend Mr. Ellison A. Smyth, Jr., shot one many years ago in Clarendon County. I have seen Mr. Smyth's bird and I believe it was recorded in 'Random Notes on Natural History.'—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

The Dwarf Thrush in Colorado.—A specimen of the Dwarf Thrush (*Turdus aonalaschkeæ*) was taken October 6, 1895, at Magnolia, a small mining town some eight miles west of Boulder, Colorado. This is the first record of the species for this State. To make sure of the identification the bird was sent to Mr. Ridgway, who pronounced it a typical example of this species.—U. A. SPRAGUE, *Boulder, Col.*

Food of Woodpeckers and Flycatchers.—Southern California seems well adapted to the birds of the family Picidæ. I have been at Claremont, Los Angeles County, less than two years, and have had little time to work with birds, yet I have secured the following species: *Dryobates villosus harrisi*, *Xenopicus albolarvatus*, *Sphyrapicus ruber*, *Sphyrapicus thyroideus*, *Melanerpes formicivorus bairdii*, *Melanerpes torquatus*, and *Colaptes cafer*. In the stomach of all these I have found insects, and often more or less bark. *Melanerpes formicivorus bairdii* has the habit of storing acorns in trees, presumably for future use as food. They gather the acorns and place them in holes which have been previously chiseled out by use of their bills. I have heard reliable observers state that they have frequently seen them eating these acorns during the winter months. *Sphyrapicus ruber* is the Sapsucker of southern California. It taps fruit trees, especially prune and apricot, and evergreens. Its mischief seems much more serious than that of its congener of the East, as trees are frequently killed by reason of its punctures, although these latter are more distant and less numerous. I never knew a tree to be killed by the Sapsuckers in Michigan. The evil in California is wrought in summer when the dry season has enfeebled the tree, and this is a possible explanation of the more serious harm to the trees of this region.

I have also been interested in the species of the family Tyrannidæ. I have taken at Claremont and the adjacent cañons the following species: *Tyrannus verticalis*, *Tyrannus vociferans*, *Myiarchus cinerascens*, *Sayornis sayi*, *Sayornis nigricans*, *Contopus borealis*, *Empidonax pusillus*, and *Empidonax difficilis*. In the stomach of all these were found insects; but

twice I found a strange exception to the usual food of the birds of this family. In two cases I found green olives in the stomach of *Tyrannus verticalis*, and in nearly all birds of the common species *Sayornis nigricans*, killed in winter, I have found pepper berries. *Tyrannus verticalis* is the Bee-martin of California. It flies from its perch near the apiary, captures its prey, then flies back to its perch, making some rapid motion, after which it swallows the bee. I have seen a toad swallow five bees in quick succession; then have killed the toad to find five bee stings sticking to its throat, and as many stingless bees in its stomach. Does the throat of the Kingbird become a sort of pin-cushion for bee stings, or does this bird extract the stings as it manipulates the bee before swallowing? I am eagerly waiting to settle this interesting question. I have taken worker bees from the stomach of the eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) but never noticed regarding the disposition of the stings. None of the Kingbirds which I have taken in California have had bees in their stomach, though I am told by good observers that this bird does capture and swallow bees.—A. J. COOK, *Claremont, Cal.*

Rare Visitors to the Connecticut River Valley in Massachusetts in 1895.—*Seiurus motacilla*.—On the 28th day of July, a Louisiana Water Thrush was found dead, on the piazza of a house in the central part of Springfield, undoubtedly having been killed by flying against a window. The capture of a specimen by Dr. J. A. Allen on Mount Tom in April, 1869, is the only other record of its occurrence here.

Rallus elegans.—October 19, a young King Rail was taken in Longmeadow. It was found in the *Zizania aquatica* which grows so profusely along the banks of the Connecticut River. The presence of this species in this part of the valley, I believe, has never before been noted; and the Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris crepitans*) has been captured here but twice.

Calcarius lapponicus.—A Lapland Longspur was shot in Longmeadow, November 28.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

A Correction.—In 'The Auk' for April, 1892 (Vol. IX, p. 144), in a note on the 'Habits of the Black-bellied Plover in Massachusetts,' I stated it as my conviction that the *adults* do not assume the gray and white winter plumage after having attained to the full adult spring plumage. I also expressed the same opinion in regard to the plumage of the *adult* Knots in 'The Auk' for January, 1893 (Vol. X, p. 32) in 'Observations on the Knot, *Tringa caudatus*.' I now desire to withdraw both of these opinions, as I am inclined to doubt, although not yet *certain*, the correctness of such views, but believe it much better to so state, rather than let a probable error remain to misguide others.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*